Tales of Infectious Disease
Katie Brown

Over the years many tales, myths and answers have been give to explain infectious diseases. Many of these myths involved an angry god or goddess. These types of stories were accepted for centuries. Around 430 B.C. Hippocrates came up with the idea that infectious disease was not supernatural, but rather an imbalance in the body. He did realize however, that fever and swelling were a body’s immune response as well as contribute consumption of spoiled food as a cause for diarrhea.

Even after Hippocrates, people still attributed disease toward god’s wrath. It was not until science really began to emerge in the past few centuries that infectious disease was looked at in a new light. Even today in a world that prides itself on knowledge and being well informed, many people still have misconceptions about diseases and not just in remote areas of the world. These misconceptions are about vaccination, AIDS, Malaria and many other diseases.